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The carrier 11 is configured to receive, structurally support, and electrically connect to the PCI card. The carrier preferably includes a planar body 71 having an upper edge 73, a lower edge 75, a front end 77 and a back end 79, and further includes a handle 81 along the front end, configured for controlling the longitudinal insertion and extraction of the carrier into and out of the chassis. The first and second system connectors 13, 19 are preferably configured to accommodate both 32-bit and 64-bit cards, and the system connectors are rated for 5 volt and 3.3 volt applications.

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The carrier 11 preferably includes one or more guides that are configured to guide the card 17 into place on the carrier and/or to provide structural support to the card. In particular, the carrier includes a rear guide 83 forming a rear track 85 that faces in a longitudinal direction and is configured to slidingly receive the rearward edge 79 of the card, a front guide 87 forming a front track 89 facing in a direction to slidingly receive a side of the main surface 51 of the card bulkhead 49, as well as the carrier first system connector 13. Each of these three features slidably receive the card in a lateral direction to mate with the carrier such that the plane of the card is parallel to the plane of the carrier.

The rear track is slidably adjustable along a slot 96 to accommodate for cards of different lengths. A spring-biased pin (not shown) locks the rear track into place, preferably at standard card lengths.